

CLAIMS:

1. A chair comprising:  
a seat attached to a base;  
a backrest; and  
first and second arms, each including an armrest, an armrest support, and a backrest support rigidly connected to the armrest support and the backrest, the backrest support having a flexible center portion that enables the backrest to pivot by bending the flexible center portion.
2. The chair of claim 1, wherein the flexible center section comprises a spring element.
3. The chair of claim 2, wherein the spring element is pre-stressed.
4. The chair of claim 3, wherein the spring element is made from a layered fibrous material.
5. The chair of claim 2, wherein the backrest support includes an armrest mount that rigidly attaches the backrest support to the armrest and a backrest mount that rigidly attaches the backrest support to the backrest.
6. The chair of claim 5, wherein the spring element includes a first end that is

embedded in the armrest mount and a second end is embedded in the backrest mount.

7. The chair of claim 2, wherein the spring element is contained within a cover.
8. The chair of claim 2, wherein the backrest pivots by bending the spring element.
9. The chair of claim 1, further comprising a supplemental backrest support having a first end that is rigidly attached to the base, and a second end that contacts the backrest.
10. The chair of claim 9, wherein the second end of the backrest support comprises a bracket rigidly mounted to the backrest and a rod, the bracket having a slot formed therein along which the rod slides.
11. The chair of claim 1, wherein the backrest support of each of the first and second arms provides the sole support for the backrest.
12. The chair of claim 1, wherein a supplemental backrest support provides additional support for the backrest.
13. The chair of claim 1, wherein the arm and armrest support of each of the first and second arms remain stationary when the flexible center portion of each of the first and second arms bends.

14. The chair of claim 1, wherein the spring includes a longitudinal axis and is linear in longitudinal configuration.

15. A chair comprising:

a seat attached to a base;

a backrest; and

first and second arms, each including an armrest, an armrest support, and a backrest support rigidly connected to the armrest support and the backrest, the backrest support having a flexible center portion that enables the backrest to pivot by bending the flexible center portion;

wherein the arm and armrest support of each of the first and second arms remain stationary when the flexible center portion of each of the first and second arms bends.

16. The chair of claim 5, wherein the backrest support includes an armrest mount that rigidly attaches the backrest support to the armrest and a backrest mount that rigidly attaches the backrest support to the backrest.

17. The chair of claim 16, wherein the spring element includes a first end that is embedded in the armrest mount and a second end is embedded in the backrest mount.

18. A chair comprising:

a seat attached to a base;

a backrest; and

first and second arms, each including an armrest, an armrest support, and a backrest support rigidly mounted directly to the armrest and to the backrest;

wherein the backrest support comprises the sole support for the backrest.

19. The chair of claim 18, wherein the armrest and backrest support form a continuous surface.

20. The chair of claim 18, further comprising an armrest height adjustment that simultaneously adjusts the height of the armrest and backrest.